CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

ITEM # 29

MAY 2003 AGENDA

SUBJECT	X	ACTION
Environmental Effect of Proposed Formation of Dixie-Terra Linda Unified School District from Dixie Elementary School District and a Portion of San Rafael City High School District in Marin County		INFORMATION
	X	PUBLIC HEARING

Recommendation:

Adopt a Negative Declaration (Attachment 1), which indicates no environmental effect.

Summary of Previous State Board of Education Discussion and Action

The State Board of Education has not heard this issue previously.

Summary of Key Issue(s)

Six years ago, the California Resources Agency adopted guidelines that exempted school district organizations from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process. Those guidelines were invalidated in a recent appellate court ruling (Communities for a Better Environment v. California Resources Agency, Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District, Case No. C038844).

The State Board of Education is the lead agency for all aspects of school district unifications, including the reinstated CEQA review process. Pursuant to past practice, California Department of Education (CDE) staff conducted an initial study (Attachment 2) and determined that there would be no significant adverse effect on the environment as a result of forming the Dixie-Terra Linda Unified School District. A copy of the Negative Declaration and initial study has been filed with the State Clearinghouse for state agency review (Attachment 3). Also, a legal notice of the May 8, 2003, public hearing has been published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Any comments received by CDE will be forwarded to the Board or presented verbally at the public hearing.

Fiscal Analysis (as appropriate)

There is no fiscal effect to adopting the proposed Negative Declaration.

Attachments

Attachment 1: Negative Declaration (Pages 1-1)
Attachment 2: Environmental Checklist Form (Pages 1-7)
Attachment 3: State Clearinghouse Notification (Pages 1-2) (This attachment not available on

the web)

NEGATIVE DECLARATION

- 1. Name, if any, and a brief description of project: **Formation of Dixie-Terra Linda Unified School District**, which is a unification of the existing Dixie Elementary School District with the corresponding geographic portion of the San Rafael City High School District. This unification also will directly result in the unification of the San Rafael City Elementary School District with the remainder of the San Rafael City High School District.
- 2. Location: Marin County
- 3. Entity or person undertaking project: California State Board of Education

The California State Board of Education, having reviewed the Initial Study of this proposed project, and having reviewed the written comments received prior to the public meeting of the State Board of Education, including the recommendation of the California Department of Education's staff, does hereby find and declare that the proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment. A brief statement of the reasons supporting the State Board of Education findings is as follows: The unification itself will not involve or cause physical changes to the existing environment. Merely changing the political boundaries and the name of a school district (or portion of a school district) will not have an environmental impact.

The California State Board of Education hereby finds that the Negative Declaration reflects its independent judgment.

A copy of the Initial Study may be obtained at the California Department of Education, 1430 N Street, Suite 3800, Sacramento, CA 95814. Telephone: (916) 322-1468.

The location and custodian of the documents and any other material which constitute the record of proceedings upon which the California State Board of Education based its decision to adopt this Negative Declaration are as follows:

California Department of Education 1430 N Street, Suite 3800 Sacramento, CA 95814 Telephone: (916) 322-1468

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

1.	Project title: Formation of	Dixie-Terra Linda Unified Se	chool District					
2.	2. Lead agency name and address:							
Cal	California State Board of Education							
<u>143</u>	30 N Street, Suite 5111, Sacr	amento, CA 95814						
3.	Contact person and phone	number: <u>Larry Shirey, 916 3</u> 2	22-1468					
4.	Project location: San Rafac	el, Marin County						
5.	5. Project sponsor's name and address:							
<u>Ch</u>	ief Petitioners	Gregory Stepanicich	Carole Hayashino	Jorge Duran				
<u>Sar</u>	n Rafael, CA 94903	82 Creekside Drive	1170 Idylberry Road	152 Golden Hinde				
6.	General plan designation:	N/A	7. Zoning:	N/A				
-	8. Description of project: (Describe the whole action involved, including but not limited to later phases of the project, and any secondary, support, or off-site features necessary for its implementation. Attach additional sheets if necessary.) Change of local governmental structure from elementary/high school districts to unified school district							
<u>CII</u>	ange of local governmental s	reduce from cicinental yring	ii school districts to difficu	School district				
9.	Surrounding land uses and	setting: (Briefly describe the	project's surroundings)					
Cit	y of San Rafael, three curre	nt school districts – San Rafac	el Elementary, Dixie Elemen	tary, San Rafael High				
10.	Other public agencies who	se approval is required (e.g.,	permits, financing approval, o	or participation agreements.)				
<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>							
EN	VIRONMENTAL FACTOR	RS POTENTIALLY AFFECT	ED:					
		ed below would be potentially as indicated by the checklists or		ring at least one impact that is a				
	Land Use and Planning	☐ Transportation	n/Circulation	Public services				
	Population and Housing	☐ Biological Re	sources	Utilities and Service Systems				
	Geological Problems	☐ Energy and M	ineral Resources	Aesthetics				
	Water	☐ Hazards		Cultural Resources				
	Air Quality	☐ Noise		Recreation				
		☐ Mandatory Fin	ndings of Significance					

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)				
On the basis of this initial evaluation:				
☐ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant RATION will be prepared.	nt effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLA-			
☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significal effect in this case because the mitigation measures described of NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.				
☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect REPORT is required.	on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT			
I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect(s) on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets, if the effect is a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated." An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze on the effects that remain to be addressed.				
I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there WILL NOT be a significant effect in this case because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR, including revisions of mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project.				
Signature	Date: 11/05/02			
Printed name: Larry Shirey	For: California State Board of Education			

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

- 1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
- 2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
- 3) "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect is significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
- 4) "Negative Declaration: Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from Section XVII, "Earlier Analyses," may be cross-referenced).
 - 5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 1 5063(c)(3)(D). Earlier analyses are discussed in Section XVII at the end of the checklist.

- 6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated. See the sample question below. A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
- 7) This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different ones.

Sa	mple Question:		D (C II		
Issi	ues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially	Potentially Significant Unless	Less than	
Wo	uld the proposal result in potential impacts involving:	Significant Impact	Mitigation Incorporated	Significant Impact	No Impa
a)	Landslides or mudslides? (1, 6)				\boxtimes
(At	tached source list explains 1 is the general plan and 6 is a USGS topo map. This ar	nswer woul	ld need no fu	rther expla	nation.)
EN	NVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impa
	AND USE AND PLANNING. Would the proposal:	_	<i>,</i>		5-7
a)	Conflict with general plan designation or zoning? (Source #:)		Ш	Ш	\boxtimes
b)	Conflict with applicable environmental plans or policies adopted by agencies with jurisdiction over the project? (\boxtimes
c)	Be incompatible with existing land use in the vicinity? ()				\boxtimes
d)	Affect agricultural resources or operations (e.g., impacts to soils or farmlands, or impacts from incompatible land uses)? ()				\boxtimes
e)	Disrupt or divide the physical arrangement of an established community (including a low-income or minority community)? ()				\boxtimes
II.	POPULATION AND HOUSING. Would the proposal:				
a)	Cumulatively exceed official regional or local population projections? (\boxtimes
b)	Induce substantial growth in an area either directly or indirectly (e.g., through projects in an undeveloped area or extension of major infrastructure)? (\boxtimes
c)	Displace existing housing, especially affordable housing? ()				\boxtimes
Ш	GEOLOGIC PROBLEMS. Would the proposal result in or expose people to potential impacts involving:				
a)	Fault rupture? ()				\boxtimes
b)	Seismic ground shaking? ()				\boxtimes
c)	Seismic ground failure, including liquefaction? ()				\boxtimes
d)	Seiche, tsunami, or volcanic hazard? ()				\boxtimes
e)	Landslides or mudflows? ()				\boxtimes
f)	Erosion, changes in topography or unstable soil conditions from excavation, grading, or fill? ()				\boxtimes
g)	Subsidence of land? ()				\boxtimes
h)	Expansive soils? ()				\boxtimes
i)	Unique geologic or physical features? ()				\boxtimes

IV.	WATER. Would the proposal result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impac
a)	Changes in absorption rates, drainage patterns, or the rate and amount of surface runoff? ()				\boxtimes
b)	Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding? (\boxtimes
c)	Discharge into surface waters or other alteration of surface water quality (e.g., temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity? (
d)	Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body? ()				\boxtimes
e)	Changes in currents, or the course or direction of water movements? (\boxtimes
f)	Change in the quantity of ground waters, either through direct additions or withdrawals, or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavations or through substantial loss of groundwater recharge capability? ()				\boxtimes
g)	Altered direction or rate of flow of groundwater? ()				\boxtimes
h)	Impacts to groundwater quality? ()				\boxtimes
i)	Substantial reduction in the amount of groundwater otherwise available for public water supplies? ()				\boxtimes
V. .	AIR QUALITY. Would the proposal:				
a)	Violate any air quality standard or contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation? (\boxtimes
b)	Expose sensitive receptors to pollutants? ()				\boxtimes
c)	Alter air movement, moisture, or temperature, or cause any change in climate? ()				\boxtimes
d)	Create objectionable odors? ()				\boxtimes
VI.	TRANSPORTATION/CIRCULATION. Would the proposal result in:				
a)	Increased vehicle trips or traffic congestion? ()				\boxtimes
b)	Hazards to safety from design features (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)? (\boxtimes
c)	Inadequate emergency access or access to nearby uses? (
d)	Insufficient parking capacity onsite or offsite? ()				\boxtimes
e)	Hazards or barriers for pedestrians or bicyclists? ()				\boxtimes
f)	Conflicts with adopted policies supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)? ()				\boxtimes
g)	Rail, waterborne or air traffic impacts? ()				\boxtimes
VII	I. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the proposal result in impacts to:				
a)	Endangered, threatened or rare species or their habitats (including but not limited to plants, fish, insects, animals, and birds? ()				\boxtimes
b)	Locally designated species (e.g., heritage trees)? (\boxtimes
c)	Locally designated natural communities (e.g., oak forest, coastal habitat, etc.)? (\boxtimes

Potentially

		Potentially Significant Impact	Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d)	Wetland habitat (e.g., marsh, riparian, and vernal pool)? (
e)	Wildlife dispersal or migration corridors? ()				
VI	II. ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES. Would the proposal:				
a)	Conflict with adopted energy conservation plans? ()				
b)	Use nonrenewable resources in a wasteful and inefficient manner? ()				
c)	Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of future value to the region and the residents of the State? ()				\boxtimes
IX.	. HAZARDS. Would the proposal involve:				
a)	A risk of accidental explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to, oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation)? (\boxtimes
b)	Possible interference with an emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? ()				
c)	The creation of any health hazard or potential health hazard? ()				
d)	Exposure of people to existing sources of potential health hazards? ()				
e)	Increased fire hazard in areas with flammable brush, grass, or trees? (
X.	NOISE. Would the proposal result in:				
a)	Increases in existing noise levels? ()				
b)	Exposure of people to severe noise levels? ()				\boxtimes
ΧI	PUBLIC SERVICES. Would the proposal have an effect upon, or result in a need for new or altered government services in any of the following areas:				
a)	Fire protection? ()				
b)	Police protection? ()				
c)	Schools? ()				
d)	Maintenance of public facilities, including roads? ()				
e)	Other government services? ()				
XI	I. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the proposal result in a need for new systems or supplies, or substantial alterations to the following utilities:				
a)	Power or natural gas? ()				
b)	Communications systems? ()				
c)	Local or regional water treatment or distribution facilities? (
d)	Sewer or septic tanks? ()				
e)	Storm water drainage? ()				
f)	Solid waste disposal? ()				
g)	Local or regional water supplies? ()				\boxtimes

		Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact		
XII	I. AESTHETICS. Would the proposal:		Incorporated	,			
a)	Affect a scenic vista or scenic highway? ()				\boxtimes		
b)	Have a demonstrable negative aesthetic effect? ()				\boxtimes		
c)	Create light or glare? ()						
XIV	V. CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the proposal:						
a)	Disturb paleontological resources? ()				\boxtimes		
b)	Disturb archaeological resources? ()				\boxtimes		
c)	Have the potential to cause a physical change which would affect unique ethnic cultural values? ()				\boxtimes		
d)	Restrict existing religious or sacred uses within the potential impact area? ()				\boxtimes		
XV	. RECREATION. Would the proposal:						
a)	Increase the demand for neighborhood or regional parks or other recreational facilities? ()				\boxtimes		
b)	Affect existing recreational opportunities? ()				\boxtimes		
XV	XVI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.						
a)	Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, so wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endanged examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	g levels, thre	aten to elimi	nate a plar	it or		
b)	Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of	f long-term, e	environmenta	ıl goals?	\bowtie		
c)	Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively comeans that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)				rable"		
d)	Does the project have environmental effects, which will cause substantial advertindirectly?	se effects on	human being	gs, either d	irectly or		
XV	II. EARLIER ANALYSES.						

the following on attached sheets:

b) Impacts adequately addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.

Earlier analyses used. Identify earlier analyses and state where they are available for review.

Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, one or more effects have been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case a discussion should identify

c) Mitigation measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which are incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.

Authority: Public Resources Code Sections 21083 and 21087.

Reference: Public Resources Code Sections21080(c), 21080.1, 21083, 21083.3, 21093, 21094, 21151; *Sundstrum* v. *County of Mendocino*, 202

Cal.App.3d 296 (1988); Leonoff v. Monterey Board of Supervisors, 222 Cal.App.3d 1337 (1990).